

SENATE BILL 2510

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,  
Chapter 5, relative to dental hygienists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(h) Notwithstanding this section or § 63-5-115, a dental hygienist is authorized to perform scaling and root planing, periodontal maintenance, and the administration of local anesthesia under general supervision if the following requirements are met:

- (1) The patient is eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- (2) The patient has been examined by a licensed dentist within the previous eleven (11) months;
- (3) The medical history of the patient has not changed since the last examination. If the medical history has changed in that period, then the dental hygienist shall consult with the dentist prior to administering local anesthesia;
- (4) The supervising dentist who performed the examination determined and approved, as indicated in the patient's record, the patient for scaling and root planing or periodontal maintenance with the administration of local anesthesia;
- (5) The dental hygienist is currently licensed to administer local anesthesia;
- (6) The dental hygienist has been licensed and practicing for at least twelve (12) months; and

(7) The dental hygienist has administered local anesthesia in at least ten (10) cases under the direct supervision of the same dentist during a period of at least one (1) year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(c)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting the language:

(4) A dental hygienist shall perform subgingival curettage only under direct supervision.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(e), is amended by deleting the language "direct" and substituting the language "general".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-115(b), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision to be appropriately designated:

( ) Teledentistry. As used in this chapter, "teledentistry" means the use of information by technology and telecommunications for dental care, consultation, education, and public awareness in the same manner as authorized for telemedicine and telehealth.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-115(d)(1), is amended by inserting the following language immediately after the third sentence of the subdivision:

Under the protocol, the initial and subsequent examinations by the dentist may be accomplished by means of teledentistry technology.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-122, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection (h):

(h) Licensed dental hygienists are authorized to prescribe periodontal rinses, fluoride, and dentrifices. A licensed pharmacist of this state may fill prescriptions of dental hygienists under this subsection (h).

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.